

Wabash Plain Dealer

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THURSDAY,
JUNE 18, 2020

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Tomorrow's
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**Pulse
of Wabash**

Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be dropped in the mail slot or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email tcampbell@pmginmi.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. To bring you the most accurate information about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Wabash Plain Dealer has decided to prioritize news content over sports stories since sporting events are canceled for the time being. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. Thank you.

North Manchester Kiwanis Club plans annual fish fry

The Kiwanis Club of North Manchester annual fish fry is set for Thursday, June 18 at Warvel Park, 702 N. Market St., North Manchester. This year's fish fry will be curbside only in a drive-thru procession. The starting point for the drive-thru will be along the southbound lane of Market Street from the corner of Ninth Street to Seventh Street. Fish dinners will be available from 4:30 to 7 p.m. "or until we sell out of dinners." Dinners include fish, coleslaw, tartar sauce, applesauce and a cookie. Tickets cost \$10.50 in advance and \$11 at the event. Tickets may be purchased in advance from any Kiwanis member, from Grand's Ice Cream Shoppe, Quality Quick Lube and Shepherds Chevrolet or at the park the night of the event. For tickets and additional information, call David Kreps at 260-982-8251 or visit www.northmanchesterkiwanis.com.

Festivals Scholarship pageant fundraiser set

The Wabash County Festivals Scholarship pageant will hold their Nelson's Port-A-Pit fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the former Miller's Furniture building, 1100 N. Cass St.

See **PULSE**, page A3

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Natural gas leak reported early Wednesday

Crews on the scene near the intersection of Falls Avenue, Maple Street

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Several agencies were on scene early Wednesday near the intersection of Falls Avenue and Maple Street re-

sponding to a natural gas leak.

Barry Stroup, Wabash Fire Department (WFD) chief, said crews were on scene, but he had "no other details."

Mayor Scott Long said crews from Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) were on the scene in addition to the WFD and the Wabash Police Department (WPD).

"Indiana American Water

has a contractor installing a new water main in the area," said Long. "No city of Wabash personnel were involved."

Dana Berkes, public affairs manager for NIPSCO, said crews responded Wednesday morning to a hit mainline at 210 Falls Avenue.

"At this time, crews are assessing the damage and will work to shut off gas and repair the line," said Berkes.

"Additional information will become available as the work continues."

Joe Loughmiller, external affairs manager for Indiana American Water, said this incident involved a contractor doing work for them on a main installation project on Falls Avenue between West Maple and Ferry streets.

"The project got underway about a week ago and will be finished early summer of this

year. Utility locates were done for the construction. However, we will be investigating the specific circumstances to determine what happened," stated Loughmiller.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

'Tailgating on the Farm' for a good cause

Hawkins Farms kicks off Pizza Fridays benefiting HOPE CSA

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Starting Friday, June 12, Hawkins Family Farm began hosting "Tailgating on the Farm," a "safe and adventurous way to enjoy good food in a secure setting among appropriately spaced good neighbors on a pretty little Indiana farm," according to Sarah Hawkins Rusk, owner and marketing manager.

From 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays at 10373 N. 300 East, North Manchester, diners will be able to order online or by phone "their all-natural, locally-sourced artisan pizzas baked in an outdoor, wood-fired brick oven at Hawkins Family Farm."

"Those wishing to remain on the farm may do so by parking in a numbered 32-foot by 25-foot picnic spot, which is first-come, first-serve, and receive their order delivered to their spot, all while enjoying the farm's natural beauty and remaining safely socially distant," said Hawkins Rusk.

Standard pizzas range from \$10 to \$20, payable by credit card or Apple Pay.

All profits from Fridays on the Farm benefit HOPE CSA (Hands-On Pastoral Education using Clergy Sustaining Agriculture), "a nonprofit ecumenical teaching ministry that offers a course of experiential learning and academic study to assist pastors to become healthier and more effective leaders."

"We knew we needed to find a way for people to get out of the house and out in the fresh air, to experience the settledness of the familiar pattern of gathering weekly on our farm with nature and other people, but to do so in a way that was rigorous in safety. Giving everyone a large safe space in which to tailgate is a fun way to accomplish this," said Jeff Hawkins, HOPE CSA executive director.

Hawkins said they served



Provided photos

Starting Friday, June 12, Hawkins Family Farm began hosting "Tailgating on the Farm."



All profits from Fridays on the Farm benefit HOPE CSA (Hands-On Pastoral Education using Clergy Sustaining Agriculture).

around 100 people "who the 'tailgating' concept." seemed to take quickly to "Diners spread blankets

or set up camp chairs, enjoyed pizza and the farm's outdoor setting, and maintained social distance. One person commented that it felt very safe. We had a couple of glitches with the online ordering system, but we overcame them without too much trouble so that everyone could order and serve," stated Hawkins

Hawkins Rusk stated weekly guest chefs will craft specialty pizzas featuring seasonal ingredients in addition to the standard

See **PIZZA**, page A2

WFD responds to a house fire Tuesday
The damage is estimated at \$40K

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The Wabash Fire Department (WFD) responded to a report of a house fire at around 1:21 p.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of Anna Street, stated WFD Chief Barry Stroup, in response to a Plain Dealer request Wednesday.

Stroup said the fire was reported by a neighbor across the street stating that smoke and flames are coming out of the house.

"First arriving units reported heavy fire and smoke coming out of windows of the house. All occupants were out of the residence and accounted for," stated Stroup.

Stroup said the fire was extinguished by 2 p.m. All crews were back in-service at 4:21 p.m.

The damage was estimated at \$40,000.

The fire "appears to have started in the southeast corner," Stroup said. The WFD is currently investigating the cause and origin of the blaze.

"The cause of the fire is accidental and under investigation," Stroup stated Wednesday.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

New district court chief judge appointed

Jon E. DeGuilio replaced Theresa L. Springmann on June 1

STAFF REPORT

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana has announced it is now under the leadership of a new chief judge, according to Robert N. Trgovich, clerk.

As of June 1, the Honorable Jon E. DeGuilio became responsible for handling administrative matters and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the court.

The chief judge is assigned based on seniority and other factors, as outlined in 28 U.S.C. Section 136.

DeGuilio was appointed by President Barack Obama on May 13, 2010. He is a graduate of Valparaiso University School of Law (J.D.,

See **JUDGE**, page A2

DWD issues fraud alert to insurance claimants

Scammers are sending emails to steal unemployment insurance claimants' information

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is issuing a fraud alert to notify those who have filed for unemployment insurance benefits in 2020 that they need to protect their personal information from potential scammers, according to a press release.

The U.S. Department of

Labor Office of Inspector General has discovered that scammers are sending emails to steal claimants' passwords, account numbers and/or Social Security numbers. With this information, they can gain access to email, bank or other accounts.

"The scammers are sending emails using the names of companies or individuals familiar to claimants. They use familiar icons, folder names, and programs to trick claimants into providing their personal information to them," according to the release. "Claimants can protect themselves by hovering over the links scammers include in the emails,

but not clicking on it, to see where it will take them. Most scammers will use a URL shortened to hide the website's true identity. You can also call the sender to inquire if the email is legitimate."

The links send the victim to a webpage, which looks like a Microsoft SharePoint website. It further requires the user to sign-in using a Google, Microsoft, Apple, Yahoo! or other user accounts.

"Once you have signed into a personal account, the scammers will obtain your username and password. They will have access to the files you have stored online and your contact lists.

They may use this contact list to send the same scam email to your friends and family," stated the release. "The scammers may use your personal information to collect unemployment insurance in your name or change your bank account number to one of their own. DWD does not require claimants to use a secondary account to sign into its online filing system, UpLink."

To report an allegation of fraud involving unemployment, please visit the DWD's fraud reporting webpage at www.Unemployment.IN.gov and click on "Report Unemployment Fraud."

Ind. reports 24 more COVID-19 deaths, 264 more cases

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Twenty-four more Indiana residents have died from COVID-19, while the state’s total number of confirmed coronavirus cases surpassed 41,000, state health officials said Wednesday.

All but three of Indiana’s newly confirmed COVID-19 deaths occurred on June 11 or later, the Indiana State Department of Health said. The 24 new deaths boosted Indiana’s confirmed pandemic death toll to 2,289 since the first fatality was reported in mid-March.

The state agency has also recorded 186 fatalities considered coronavirus-related by doctors but without confirmation of the illness from test results. Those deaths give Indiana 2,475 confirmed or presumed deaths from the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The state health department also reported 264 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus, raising Indiana’s total to 41,013.

To date, 371,182 test results have been reported to the state agency and about 11 percent of those results have been positive for the coronavirus.

Indiana’s weekly update of pandemic deaths at the state’s nursing homes, released each Monday, shows that deaths at those homes had increased by 71 to 1,082 in a week.

Those deaths account for 44 percent of Indiana’s total deaths, but the state’s tally remains fewer than the 1,141 total COVID-19 deaths that a federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services report listed among Indiana nursing home residents as of May 24.

State health officials have said they were working to resolve those different figures.

Gov. Eric Holcomb and state health officials have stopped identifying nursing homes with outbreaks, despite complaints from relatives of home residents about a lack of communication about illnesses and deaths. State officials maintain those facilities face federal and state requirements to notify the families about their COVID-19 status.

PIZZA

From page A1

pizza menu that includes the traditional Margherita, Hawkins Farm sausage and Hawkins Farm pepperoni. Carry out is also available for those wishing to dine at home.

Fridays on the Farm are sponsored by Visit Wabash County, Light Rail Cafe and Roaster, Gunthorp Farms, Susan and Tom Haynes, Don

and Becky Fry and Steve and Erin Jungbauer in memory of David Grandstaff and honor of Jane Grandstaff.

“Hawkins Family Farm is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) venture offering pasture-raised beef, pork, chicken and turkey; grain products and garden-fresh vegetables to CSA shareholders, farm store customers, and restaurants in northeast Indiana,” said Hawkins Rusk. “The mission of HOPE CSA is to provide a ministry of continuing education and vocational renewal to clergy and other church leaders using the culture and resources of the Christian faith and creation in the context of a small, diversified family farm.”

For more information, visit www.hawkinsfamilyfarm.com or www.hopecsa.org.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

JUDGE

From page A1

1981) and the University of Notre Dame (B.A., 1977). Before he was appointed a federal district judge, DeGuilio was executive vice

president and general counsel for Peoples Bank from 1999 to 2010); was appointed as United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana from 1993 to 1999; was appointed as prosecuting attorney for Lake County from 1989 to 1993; and had

engaged in the private practice of law as well as serving part-time as a deputy prosecutor and public defender from 1981 to 1989.

DeGuilio replaces the Honorable Theresa L. Springmann, who served from Feb. 3, 2017 to May 31, 2020.



Community Marketing Grant

We are deeply committed to the community

The Wabash Plain Dealer has established a \$150,000 fund to help local business get back to full strength by subsidizing their marketing through matching grants. Area businesses can now apply for a grant to help them recover from the effects of the coronavirus crisis.

How Will It Work for My Business?


The fund is open to all locally owned and operated businesses impacted by the coronavirus, whether or not they are current advertisers. Grant money can be used for local Wabash Plain Dealer print newspaper and special product advertising between April 28 and June 30, 2020. Grants are available for a minimum of \$200 and a maximum of \$5,000 of matching funds each month. Eg: spend \$200 in advertising, we match with a grant of \$200 additional advertising dollars to equal \$400.

How Do I Apply?

To apply for a dollar for dollar matching advertising grant, applications must be submitted at:

https://www.wabashplaindealer.com/site/forms/advertising_match/, click on the “How Do I?” tab and Apply for a “Matching Advertising Grant”.

The Wabash Plain Dealer will respond within 48 hours. A community newspaper is only ever as strong as the community it serves. We know businesses and workers are hurting, we’re hurting too. But if we can pull together as a community, we can weather this.








Shining light on Wabash County since 1858.

How to submit news tips

People can submit news to news@wabashplaindealer.com. The newsroom can be reached by calling 260-563-2131 and pressing the number corresponding to “newsroom.” Our address is 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.







5-Day Weather Summary

 Thursday Mostly Sunny 88 / 66	 Friday Partly Cloudy 92 / 73	 Saturday Isolated T-storms 91 / 75	 Sunday Scattered T-storms 88 / 70	 Monday Scattered T-storms 87 / 68
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 9:22 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 6:16 a.m.

 New 6/21	 First 6/28	 Full 7/5	 Last 7/12
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 88°, humidity of 36%. East southeast wind 2 to 5 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 66°. Light winds. Friday, skies will be partly cloudy with a high temperature of 92°, humidity of 33%. Light winds.

Reader’s vandalized apartment causes concern

DEAR HARRIETTE: For the past few weeks, my apartment has been the focus of somebody’s wrath. Someone has been running up to my door and crashing into it. The sound is frightening, but I have yet to see who’s doing it. By the time I get to the door, the person is long gone, and we don’t have security cameras. Recently, someone spray-painted my door, and on another occasion, someone sprayed what looked like fire extinguisher fluid all over it.

I am getting a security camera to see if I can catch the person. Meanwhile, I thought it was a guy in my building who is always lurking around. I had a neighbor speak to his mother, and he came down to tell me that he hasn’t done anything. I feel bad if I have accused the wrong person, but I don’t know what to do. I do know for a fact that this young man has harassed other neighbors. So I’m not sure if he is telling the truth. – Vandalized

DEAR VANDALIZED: It’s good that you are getting a security camera. Now you will be able to see firsthand who the culprit is if he or she does it again. Keep your eyes open. Be extra-vigilant when you go outside. If someone is targeting you, it’s important to pay attention to everything and everyone around you. You should call the police and report the incidents as well. But without evidence of who may be doing it, the police will not be able to help you very much.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I want to share my two cents with the reader who was upset that her son wasn’t bathing much. You had suggested taking away electronics, but I’d argue that the current generation is not like

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



we were in the ‘70s and ‘80s. Back then, my son would shrug and not care. Now, cutting him off from his support network – if he has one – might be just the thing to tip him over to suicide. Have a conversation. Ask nicely. Ask if something is wrong. Talk about the current situation. Ask if he would like to go anywhere and what you can do. Explain that you all live together, and it would be considerate for him to be clean. Find out if there is something he would like – less tofu for dinner (for example) – where you can compromise.

Strongarm techniques don’t work on 3-year-olds, and they don’t work on older kids either. You don’t motivate someone by punishing them. You find something they want and inspire them to get there. – Mother of a 22-Year-Old

DEAR MOTHER OF A 22-YEAR-OLD: You have said a lot of things. I will add that talking to your family members, of all ages, during this time of quarantine is essential. It is tough to be cooped up at home, and both habits and behaviors can be extreme during this time. Communicate.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyleist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.



Wabash Plain Dealer

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READERS' CHOICE REPORTS

TUESDAY'S LOTTERIES

Cash 5
06-09-16-35-42
Estimated jackpot: \$180,500

Cash4Life
06-15-29-48-56, Cash Ball: 1

Daily Three-Midday
4-7-6, SB: 9

Daily Three-Evening
5-7-5, SB: 2

Daily Four-Midday
7-6-4-2, SB: 9

Daily Four-Evening
5-1-5-9, SB: 2

Mega Millions
21-23-33-35-42, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 3
Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$22 million

WEDNESDAY'S METALS

Aluminum.....71
Copper.....2.61
Lead......80
Zinc......91
Gold.....1,727.04
Silver.....17.58
Platinum.....821.90

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices
Wednesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$3.40. Soybeans: \$8.66.

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260-563-2131 (after hours, press 5 for advertising)

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Friday-Sunday:
Hours vary

■ **Call:** 260-563-2131

■ **Email:** news@wabashplaindealer.com

(Please call in advance of your visit.)

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U.S. coronavirus outbreaks spur debate over personal freedoms

By **TERRY TANG,**
KEN MORITSUGU
and LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

PHOENIX — When the coronavirus flared in China this week, the country canceled flights, suspended reopenings and described the situation as “extremely grave.” But with cases rising in some U.S. states, local officials have balked at even requiring people to wear masks.

In the United States, which has the most reported cases and deaths in the world, authorities are wrestling with balancing demands for constitutional rights and personal freedom with warnings from health officials that being lax will have deadly consequences.

China responded Wednesday to a new outbreak in Beijing by scrapping more than 60 percent of its flights to the capital, canceling classes and strengthening requirements for social distancing. It was a sharp retreat for the nation that declared victory over COVID-19 in March.

“This has truly rung an alarm bell for us,” Party Secretary Cai Qi told a meeting of Beijing’s Communist Party Standing Committee.

China’s response to about 137 new cases amounted to a fraction of the number some states see each day. In Arizona, more than 1,100 people visited emergency rooms on Tuesday alone with positive or suspected cases. Alabama is also fast running out of hospital space, leading to impassioned debate over whether to require masks. Other states that haven’t mandated face coverings, like Texas and Florida, also are seeing infections soar.

With masks becoming a political symbol, Democrat-

ic presidential candidate Joe Biden has taken aim at President Donald Trump’s approach to the pandemic.

“Donald Trump wants to style himself as a wartime president. Unlike any other wartime leader, he takes no responsibility, he exercises no leadership, now he has just flat surrendered the fight,” Biden said Wednesday.

Biden has worn a mask repeatedly at public events, while Trump hasn’t, even on occasions such as touring auto factory floors where they are required. Aides say Trump believes them to be unflattering and that wearing one projects weakness.

The mask debate is playing out nationwide, notably in hard-hit states where face coverings have become a political and cultural debate.

Hundreds of medical professionals signed a letter urging Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey to require them. He’s encouraged people to use masks but hasn’t worn one during news conferences and has rebuffed calls to require them. He also has resisted imposing new restrictions on businesses, attributing Arizona’s surge in cases to increased testing.

Arizona has been doing more tests, which can yield more cases, but health experts say a better way to see if more people are getting sick is to look at the percentage of positive tests. When that percentage rises, it means the outbreak is worsening – not just that more people are getting tested.

Arizona leads the nation with the highest seven-day average positive test rate: 17.7 percent, or about double the national average and well above the 10 percent threshold that health officials find worrisome. It also has the

most new cases per capita in the U.S. in the past 14 days. The state’s leading hospital system says it’s almost running out of beds.

Several restaurants and other businesses also have closed because staff tested positive in the last week.

The same thing is happening in parts of Florida, where people under 35 are testing positive at a higher rate since the pandemic began, contributing to a surge in cases, officials said Wednesday.

The coastal city of St. Petersburg had three popular bars close after employees tested positive.

“This is happening statewide. Ideally, we would have leadership from the top and this would be a statewide decision,” Mayor Rick Kriseman said.

The Democrat said Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has encouraged people to use masks but not mandated them.

Cases in Pinellas County, where St. Petersburg is located, have shifted from assisted living residences and nursing homes to younger people, county Commissioner Ken Welch said. He said 25 percent of the cases are in the African American community.

DeSantis said he has no intention of closing Florida’s economy again despite the new cases, saying many of those getting sick are young and thus unlikely to suffer serious illness or death.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Fears about growing numbers of infections in younger

people pushed officials in the San Antonio area to order masks in public as Texas’ COVID-19 hospitalization rates keep rising.

“What we are doing here is to protect the life and safety of the San Antonio community,” Mayor Ron Nirenberg said, adding that most infections in the area are in people younger than 40.

It comes after Texas Gov. Greg Abbott urged people to take greater responsibility for stopping the spread of the virus but said he would not require masks. The second-most-populated state hit a record high for COVID-19 hospitalizations Wednesday with 2,793, an 85 percent increase since Memorial Day.

In Montgomery, Alabama, where cases are spiking, the issue of masks erupted during a City Council meeting, where members rejected a proposal to mandate them at public gatherings of 25 or more. Health officials said they are critical to stemming the tide.

Dr. Bill Saliski, a lung specialist at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery, called on the city to pass a mask requirement and declared: “If this continues the way we’re going, we’re going to be overrun.”

Montgomery County has added more than 700 coronavirus cases in the past week, more than any other county in Alabama, with a total of 2,922 infections. The virus has affected the African American population there at disproportionate levels.

Some city leaders voiced concern about trampling on people’s rights.

“I think to make somebody do something or require somebody to wear something is an overreach,” councilman Brantley Lyons said.

Wall Street dips as global rally slows

By **STAN CHOE**
and ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks mostly fell in another day of wobbly trading on Wall Street Wednesday, as markets eased off the accelerator following their big rally.

The S&P 500 dipped 0.4 percent to break a three-day winning streak, after bouncing between small gains and losses for much of the day. Stocks in Asia and Europe made modest gains, while Treasury yields edged lower.

Markets have been trending upward this week amid hopes that the worst of the recession may have already passed, and a worldwide rally on Tuesday carried the S&P 500 back to within 8 percent of its record. But rising levels of coronavirus infections in several hotspots around the world is also raising concerns that all

the improvements could get upended.

The S&P 500 fell 11.25 points to 3,113.49, with roughly seven out of every 10 stocks in the index down. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 170.37, or 0.6 percent, to 26,119.61. The Nasdaq composite was an outlier and rose 14.66, or 0.1 percent, to 9,910.53.

Many professional investors have been warning that the S&P 500’s big rally of nearly 40 percent since late March has been overdone and that volatility is likely the market’s only certainty in upcoming months.

The market began its turnaround following a nearly 34 percent sell-off in February and March after the Federal Reserve promised massive amounts of aid for the economy. The central bank’s chair told Congress Wednesday that it’s willing to keep in-

terest rates at nearly zero and maintain its emergency lending programs.

But even though recent reports have also shown improvements in U.S. retail sales and employment as businesses reopen, the road back to a full recovery from the coronavirus pandemic will be long and is full of potential setbacks. That stands in sharp contrast to the market’s lightning surge over the last three months.

Consider Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, whose stock has often led the market – both up and down – as expectations swing about the reopening economy. It had six straight days this month where it rose or fell more than 10 percent.

It said late Tuesday that it’s cancelling most of its voyages through September. Its shares fell 8.4 percent for one of the largest losses in the S&P 500.

The chief risk for the market lies in rising infection levels in several hotspots around the world, including Florida, Texas and China. Even if authorities don’t reinstate widespread lockdowns, the worry is that businesses and consumers could get frightened by new waves of infections and pull back on their spending.

Such worries rocked the market last week, sending the S&P 500 down nearly 6 percent one day, and they’ve continued to hang in the background this week.

“Any indication that there is an increase in a handful of states that have led the charge in reopening does kind of douse the flames a bit for a rally,” said Nela Richardson, investment strategist at Edward Jones. “We saw that last week and we may be seeing that again today, though definitely not the same dramatic swing we saw last week.”

to PG&E executives. His 88-year-old father, Julian Binstock, was found with his dog in the shower of his Paradise, California home.

Binstock noted that PG&E was previously found to have falsified safety and maintenance records for its natural gas lines to make more money before the 2018 wildfire. “Not only are you mass murderers, you are also thieves, liars and forgers,” Binstock said.

Families of Calif. wildfire victims slam PG&E for crimes

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
Associated Press

The families of some of the 85 people killed by a horrific Northern California wildfire ignited by Pacific Gas & Electric’s long-neglected equipment vilified the company Wednesday as greedy, corrupt and reckless, telling heartbreaking stories of their loss in court.

The speakers tearfully told of holiday and birthday

celebrations that will never be celebrated after their loved ones perished in the November 2018 fire that nearly wiped out Paradise, California. PG&E pleaded guilty Tuesday to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter and one count of unlawfully starting the fire in the bucolic town about 170 miles northeast of San Francisco.

As they addressed Butte County Superior Court

Sallie Jane Music

Oct. 31, 1943 – June 13, 2020

Sallie Jane Music, 76, of North Manchester, Indiana, died at 10:40 am, Saturday, June 13, 2020 at Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester. She was born October 31, 1943 in Wabash, Indiana to Marvin Horner and Harriett (Dietzer) Porter.

Sallie married Shade Music Jr. in Wabash on March 27, 1961. She worked at Heckman Bindery in North Manchester 8 years, and also worked at Wabash Magnetics. Sallie was a member of the Wabash Free Will Baptist Church and enjoyed staying home.

She is survived by her husband, Shade Music, Jr. of North Manchester, two children, Christine “Teen” (Rex) Caruthers of North Manches-



ter, and Robert (Vicki) Music of Wabash, seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and two sisters, Rosalee Moore of LaFontaine, Indiana, and Mattie of Roseburg, Oregon. She was preceded in death by her parents, son, John “Marbie” Music, and her daughter, Billie Coon.

Funeral services will be 2:00 pm Thursday, June 18, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Rev. Tod Masters officiating. Burial will be in Lagro Cemetery. Friends may call 12:30-2:00 pm Thursday at the funeral home.

The memorial guest book for Sallie may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Randall Keith Davidson

Funeral services for Randall Keith Davidson, 67, of rural Wabash, were 2:00 pm Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Rev. John Cook officiated. Memories were shared by the family.

Burial was in Lagro Cemetery. Pallbearers were Melody Heister, Chris Heister, Andrew Boring, Allan Davidson, Nolan Davidson, Wendell Davidson, Gerald Davidson, and Leonard Davidson.

Gaye E. Schroeter

Services for Gaye E. Schroeter, 72, of Wabash, were 10:30 am Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at the Church of Christ at Treaty. Ryan Weaver officiated and memories were shared by Nate Mylin, Drew Dunham, Jeanne Dunham and other friends and fami-

ly. Burial was in Memorial Lawns Cemetery. Pallbearers were Tim Vogel, Drew Dunham, Jeanne Dunham, Nate Mylin, Nile Mylin, and Dereck Vogel. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

PULSE

From page A1

Blood donation opportunity scheduled for June 19

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 19 at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive.

‘Painting through Miami Eyes’ event set

Join Catherine Nagy Mowry, for a painting workshop from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 20 at Salamonie Lake. The class size is limited. Property entrance fees apply. This is a free event. Advance registration required, by calling 260-468-2127.

Wabash County Museum reveals re-opening plans

The Wabash County Museum plans to re-open the majority of its facility to the public Tuesday, June 23 with modified hours. The new hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 36 E. Market St. The education center located on the second floor of the museum will remain closed with a targeted opening date in early July.

Drive In Summer Music Series continues June 24

The Honeywell Center Summer Plaza Music Series continues Wednesday, June 24 at the 13-24 Drive In, 890 N. Indiana 13. Mason Dixon Line Band is one of Fort Wayne’s best country bands. They have opened for sold-out concerts for Frank Foster, Colt Ford, Tyler Farr and Jerrod Niemann. The event is free and open to the public, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Gates will open at 4 p.m. The performance will run from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, visit 1324DriveIn.com/coming-soon/live.

‘Hope House Under the Stars’ fundraiser planned for June 28

To raise proceeds for a Hope House, a fundraiser called “Hope House Under the Stars,” will take place from 8 to 11 p.m. Sunday, June 28 at the 13-24 Drive-In Theater, 890 N. Indiana 13. The event is free to the community and anyone interested in learning more about Hope House is encouraged to attend. The “Lego Batman” movie will be showing and children are encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero. Gates open at 8 p.m. and the movie will begin at approximately 9:35 p.m. Raffle winners will be announced before the movie. A fund at the Community Foundation has been established to receive contributions. All free-will donations will be directed to the Hope House Fund and will be used to sponsor rooms, pay salaries, and provide meals and recovery-related programming for women living in the home. The Community Foundation of Wabash County will be processing donations and administering the Hope House Fund. All donations are tax-deductible. To donate, visit www.cf-wabash.org or mail a check to the Community Foundation located at 105 W. Second St., North Manchester, with Hope House in the memo line. For more information, visit www.hopehousemarion.org.

Drive In Summer Music Series concludes July 1

The Honeywell Center Summer Plaza Music Series continues Wednesday, July 1 at the 13-24 Drive In, 890 N. Indiana 13. The Mississinewa Valley Swing Band is a community band, located in Grant County. The Swing Band is a 16-member ensemble that plays swing-era music at different area events. The event is free and open to the public, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Gates will open at 4 p.m. The performance will run from 5 to 7 p.m.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://young.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainedealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:16

We'll never start winning as long as a loser is in the White House

There's no getting around it, President Tweety is a giant loser. Huge loser. Nobody can believe what a loser he is. Everyone is laughing at him about it.

And he loves losers of all kinds.

After all, didn't the Confederacy lose the Civil War?

We checked quickly before Attorney General William Barr could get around to rewriting the history books and, yes, it was the Confederates who declared war on the United States in 1861 to preserve slavery and surrendered in 1865 after being crushed militarily.

It was also a cowardly Confederate who snuck up behind the winner, Honest Abe Lincoln, and shot him in the back of the head. Indeed, a Confederate killed the greatest Republican president. But in Barr's new history of America, no doubt it will be an early antifa boogeyman who killed Lincoln.

We wanted to revisit who the losers and the cowards were in light of President Donald Trump's defense of the Confederacy, our country's ultimate losers.

This president, who huffs and puffs about how he's all about winners and winning, is all-in behind these losers. Rebrand a U.S. military base named for a loser Confederate general? No! Allow the removal of a monument to loser Confederate political and military leaders? Absolutely not!

Instead, Trump wants to keep base names dedicated to the Southern generals – the losing terrorists who attacked U.S. troops.

He sides with those who would defend the bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest, the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, in the Tennessee state capitol. It's hard to find a bigger loser than Forrest, and not just for his role in founding

the KKK. As a Confederate general, his troops massacred a predominantly black group of Union troops who had surrendered, which fueled resolve in the North to win the war.

Now that's a loser. And Trump is loud and proud to back these guys.

Then there is the big-time winner Harriet Tubman. Such a winner. A winner like nobody could believe. A total winner. Complete winner. Freed slaves and led Union troops in the war to beat those losers in the Confederacy. Such a winner, she couldn't stop winning. Trump blocked this winner from being on the \$20 bill because Trump prefers Confederate losers. In Barr's upcoming book and miniseries, "A Complete History of New America," Tubman will be found to be antifa too. But molesting the history books won't make her any less of a winner.

Trump is used to being a loser.

When he cowardly erected a fence around the White House – say, did Mexico pay for that too? – the Black Lives Matter protesters outside one-upped Trump by transforming the fence into public protest art.

He lost to peaceful protesters at Lafayette Square, having to resort to using chemical agents, shields and a low-flying helicopter to push them out of the park for his infamous photo op. They came back, bigger and stronger and more determined. That's what winners do.

He hid in a bunker. He lost his effort to corrupt one of "his generals" when Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, apologized for taking part in the photo fiasco.

He ordered state governors to "dominate" protesters and lost that too.

He lost to the Seattle officials he demanded to kick out

blocks' worth of partying protesters under the threat of send-

ing in the military – they're still dancing in the streets.

He lost the popular vote and lost again when he got impeached. Trump is such a loser. He can't stop losing, and everyone talks about what a loser he is, just like the Confederacy.

When the candidates he endorses lose elections, he cries "fraud."

His supposedly impenetrable border wall is already being cut to pieces.

He lost the House for the Republicans in 2018.

He lost a gob of court decisions in recent months in cases involving abuse of authority – trying to keep White House counsel Don McGahn from being questioned by Congress, trying to withhold grand jury testimony from the Russia investigation and trying to shield his own financial records from Congress. Trump didn't narrowly lose these decisions, either – the judges buried him and his lawyers, ripping the administration for "openly stonewalling" and calling the Justice Department's authoritarian-like legal positions on the extent of presidential authority "extraordinary," "exactly backwards" and simply "wrong."

He lost \$1 billion in the 1980s and 1990s, according to the tax records that were unearthed last year. He's such a loser he had to ask his daddy to bail him out. Again.

He's even such a loser that he has never finished the books he claims to write.

And on it goes. He'd lose at golf if he weren't such a notorious cheater at it.

Trump is such a titanic loser that he naturally values the statues of the Confederacy and the names of its leaders on military bases – a loser president paying tribute to losers in history.

This editorial was first published in the Las Vegas Sun.



From 'radical chic' to 'woke'

It has been a spring packed with surreal moments, but one in particular stands out for me.

About a week after protests started in downtown Fort Wayne, the marchers were joined by the police chief, City Council members and the mayor, who linked arms with protesters and declared the city "a community" in which we can, "despite our differences," all "work as one."

There is a jarring contradiction there. Who in that crowd was protesting, what were they protesting,

and to whom?

When those who are identified as the oppressor class march with those who identify as the oppressed, that is not a protest.

It is a parade. So now, in addition to the patriotism of Memorial Day parades, the traditionalism of Thanksgiving Day parades and the fraternalism of old favorites like St. Patrick's Day parades and newcomers like the Gay Pride parades, we have the egalitarianism of the We Hear You parades.

In my darker moods, it's tempting to see this as a precursor to revolution.

The five great revolutions that helped shape the modern world – starting with the English in the mid-17th century and ending with the Chinese in the mid-20th – share some common characteristics. These include a galvanizing incident that

ignites long-simmering complaints against the power structure, leading to widespread protests that frequently erupt into violence.

And, somewhere along the way, defections by members of that power structure, who can feel the tide turning and want to get ahead of the engulfing waves.

Today we have seen the nation's top military commander apologize for walking with the president, our leading newspaper firing its editorial page editor for allowing the publication of unorthodox views, members of Congress kneeling to ask forgiveness for their sins, TV shows cancelled for the unforgivable sin of making the police look too good ... the list goes on and on.

But that possibility seems far-fetched.

Populist outrage – which in this country begat both Donald Trump's presidency and Black Lives Matter – is worldwide and has led to uprisings and insurgencies around the globe. There is near-universal displeasure with political leadership, elected and otherwise. Nobody should pretend to understand what it all means, but it's a fair guess that a worldwide revolution is not upon us.

Another explanation is that the Establishment finally gets it. Policy makers and institutional custodians now understand that they must find a way to provide justice for all. And once they understand this commitment, the disadvantaged and discarded will come to the table, and we will at last get started on the frank dialogue we have always needed.

About that.

When I got back from Vietnam in 1968, I was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, where I found that soldiers were being trained for crowd control, just in case police departments and National Guard units weren't able to handle the riots that seemed on the verge of destroying our greatest cities. It was a scary time, and a lot of people today would be horrified to know just how elaborate and detailed military plans for intervention in civilian matters was.

But some saw reason for hope as well. Also on the table, from earlier that year, was the Kerner Commission report on the causes of and possible solutions for urban unrest. It proposed, among other things, billions in commitments from the federal government along with the billions already pledged for LBJ's Great Society programs.

The report's authors declared it "an honest beginning" that would require for fruition a commitment from every American to "new attitudes, new understanding, and; above all, new will."

And here we are. It's not difficult to imagine that in 50 years, people will look back on today with the same exasperation we look back on 1968.

I reluctantly arrive at the admittedly cynical conclusion that what we are seeing today is a new version, greatly magnified, of the Radical Chic phenomenon associated with Tom Wolfe's 1970 New Yorker evisceration of Leonard Bernstein for the fund-raiser he hosted on behalf of the Black Panthers. It described the fun

LETTERS

Postpone report's publication

I am writing to urge you to call on the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services (USDA-HHS) to postpone publication of the report by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, so that the federal agencies in charge can have time to address serious allegations by one or more members of this committee about the process that produces the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. These allegations, which recently come to light in a letter submitted by The Nutrition Coalition, detail serious flaws in the process and imply that the very reliability of our federal nutrition recommendations is in question.

With 60 percent of Americans diagnosed with one or more chronic illnesses, conditions which increase the risk for severe outcomes and death from COVID-19, the U.S. now more than ever needs evidence-based advice on how to maintain and restore our metabolic health. The Guidelines to date have self-evidently been unable to flatten the curve on the rates of these diet-related diseases.

Please urge USDA-HHS to delay the release of the committee's expert report to provide time to thoroughly investigate these allegations.

**Katie Gentry
Fort Wayne**

HISTORY

Today is Thursday, June 18, the 170th day of 2020. There are 196 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On June 18, 1983, astronaut Sally K. Ride became America's first woman in space as she and four colleagues blasted off aboard the space shuttle Challenger on a six-day mission.

On this date:

In 1812, the War of 1812 began as the United States Congress approved, and President James Madison signed, a declaration of war against Britain.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte met defeat at Waterloo as British and Prussian troops defeated the French in Belgium.

In 1940, during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill urged his countrymen to conduct themselves in a manner that would prompt future generations to say, "This was their finest hour." Charles de Gaulle delivered a speech on the BBC in which he rallied his countrymen after the fall of France to Nazi Germany.

In 1945, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower received a tumultuous welcome in Washington D.C., where he addressed a joint session of Congress.

In 1953, a U.S. Air Force Douglas C-124 Globemaster II crashed near Tokyo, killing all 129 people on board. Egypt's 148-year-old Muhammad Ali Dynasty came to an end with the overthrow of the monarchy and the proclamation of a republic.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda spoke to each other by telephone as they inaugurated the first trans-Pacific cable completed by AT&T between Japan and Hawaii.

In 1971, Southwest Airlines began operations, with flights between Dallas and San Antonio, and Dallas and Houston.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev signed the SALT II strategic arms limitation treaty in Vienna.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Georgia v. McCollum, ruled that criminal defendants could not use race as a basis for excluding potential jurors from their trials.

In 1996, Richard Allen Davis was convicted in San Jose, California, of the 1993 kidnap-murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas of Petaluma. (Davis remains on death row.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Lou Brock is 81. Sir Paul McCartney is 78. Actress Constance McCashin is 73. Actress Linda Thorson is 73. Rock musician John Evans is 72. Former Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., is 70.

Teenager kicked out by dad who thinks she’s ungrateful

DEAR ABBY: I am 19 and have been kicked out of my house. I’m grateful for everything my parents have done for me. My dad continues to compare me to my older siblings, although I’m the exact opposite of them. They are not going to college, they barely graduated from high school and continue to abuse alcohol and drugs.

Dear Abby



I’m in college earning almost all A’s. I graduated from high school with flying colors and have a steady job. I provide for myself (food, gas, buying anything I need) and pay for car insurance. I have tried my hardest to be the best daughter and a good influence for my younger siblings.

I have asked my father multiple times during the last year to stop comparing me to my older siblings. He hasn’t. Our last conversation was a few weeks ago, when he told me to pack my stuff and get out of the house because I was an “ungrateful daughter” and “hoeing around just like my older siblings.”

I have been focusing on my education and can’t understand how he came to that conclusion. Frankly, I was very hurt he thought that of me. I’m not my siblings; I am myself, and I’m doing the best I can to give myself a successful future. My father refuses to see that. What should I do? – Bewildered Daughter In Texas

DEAR DAUGHTER: I don’t know what’s wrong with your father, but something is. You appear to be mature and responsible and doing your best to lay the foundation for a successful future. I applaud you for it.

If it’s possible for you to live elsewhere, perhaps with other relatives, and avoid your father’s uncalled-for verbal abuse, it might be healthier for you. Do not expect him to be pleased about it, because no matter how hard you try, you may never be able to please him, so be prepared.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for three years. The one issue we argue about is religion. I am a Catholic and he’s from another Christian denomination. I respect all religions and am open-minded.

However, after going to his church three times, I didn’t like it at all. They have many strict rules which, if not obeyed, will result in a person being shunned. What kind of church does that? They compare Catholics to themselves and say everything Catholics do is wrong according to the Bible. I have never felt so unwelcome in my life.

My boyfriend’s parents want me to convert, but I don’t want to. Because of this, his relationship with his parents is being affected. He plans to quit his church and become an atheist. I don’t know how to feel about this. It would be hard to convince him to join my church. We have had many fights over this, and I wonder if we should just break up. That way we wouldn’t have to discuss who is converting or where we are going to marry. Please give me some advice. – Stressed In The Islands

DEAR STRESSED: Considering the stance your boyfriend’s family’s religion has on marrying out of the faith, I’m surprised your relationship has made it this far. Fighting benefits neither of you. Talking about this calmly and rationally might bring you closer.

If he quits his church, his family and friends will make every effort to isolate and punish him. He may have to completely rebuild his social relationships. If he has any sort of religious inclination, rather than him overreacting by “becoming an (instant) atheist,” the two of you might like to explore finding a denomination together that fills your needs. But be prepared for pushback because his parents (and possibly yours) are not going to like it.

CROSSWORD

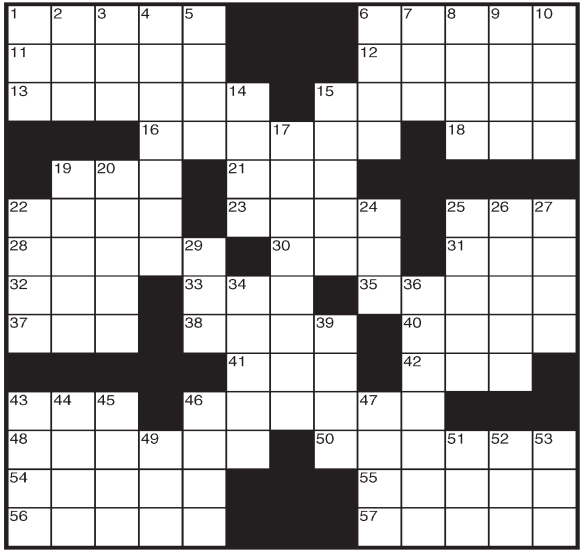
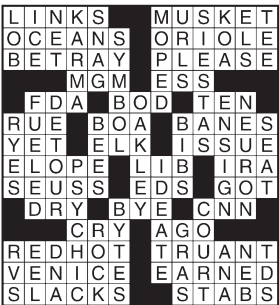
ACROSS

- 1 Skirt feature
- 6 Nut tree
- 11 Portable home
- 12 Insurance center
- 13 Went sky-high
- 15 Cat that hunts
- 16 Darth Vader’s real name
- 18 Meadow browser
- 19 Overly glib
- 21 Monsieur’s wine
- 22 Cat’s-paw
- 23 Essay byline
- 25 Iota
- 28 Come up
- 30 Columbus sch.
- 31 Corrida cheer
- 32 Domestic fowl
- 33 Daily record
- 35 Hindu ascetic
- 37 Chicken piece
- 38 Gloom
- 40 Strauss of blue jeans
- 41 — kwon do
- 42 Fruit cooler
- 43 Carefree or Dentyne
- 46 Moderate
- 48 Ballpark event
- 50 Not susceptible
- 54 Common cleanser
- 55 Reminders
- 56 Bumbling
- 57 “Haste makes waste,” e.g.

DOWN

- 1 Qt. fractions
- 2 Mr. Durocher
- 3 DDT banner
- 4 Makes effervescent
- 5 Mall frequenter
- 6 Timely blessing
- 7 Down Under bird
- 8 Fluency
- 9 Gnaw
- 10 Tortoise rival
- 14 Mr. Brubeck
- 15 Short skirts
- 17 Two pounds, plus
- 19 Make baby food
- 20 Mimicry
- 22 Kids’ writer
- 24 — Wiedersehen
- 25 Said in fun
- 26 Pimiento holder
- 27 Garr of “Mr. Mom”
- 29 Massachusetts state tree
- 34 Peripheral
- 36 Frightened
- 39 French Legion headgear
- 43 High desert of Asia
- 44 Bone —
- 45 Nothing but
- 46 Written material
- 47 Mrs. Peel of “The Avengers”
- 49 Carpet pile
- 51 Ms. Thurman
- 52 Wassail alternative
- 53 Compass pt.

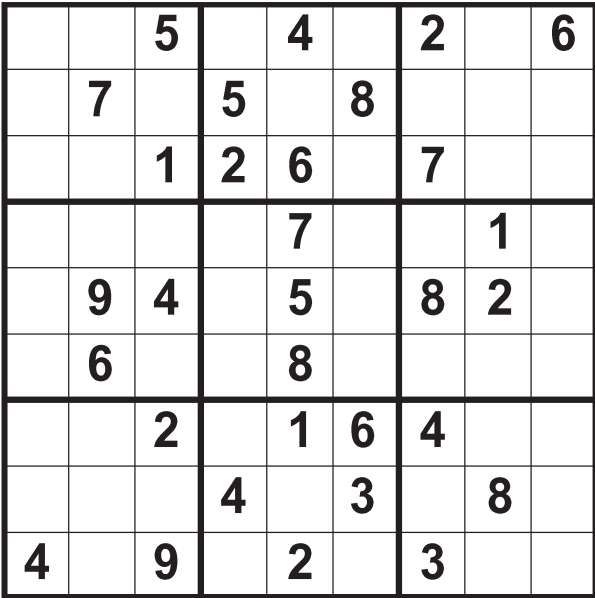
Answer to Previous Puzzle



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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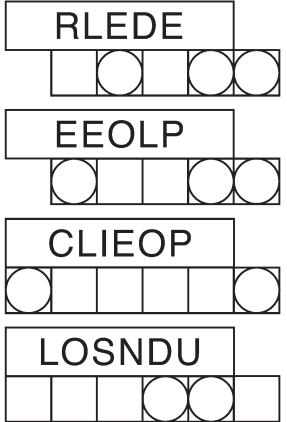
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	3	8	5	4	7	6	1	2
1	2	5	9	3	6	7	8	4
7	6	4	1	2	8	5	9	3
4	1	6	8	7	9	3	2	5
8	9	3	4	5	2	1	7	6
5	7	2	6	1	3	8	4	9
2	5	9	3	8	1	4	6	7
6	4	1	7	9	5	2	3	8
3	8	7	2	6	4	9	5	1

JUMBLE

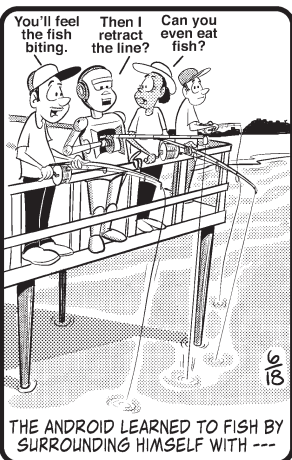
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TIBIA WOULD UTMOST HOPPER
Answer: The attic was becoming cluttered, and his wife was no longer going to — PUT UP WITH IT

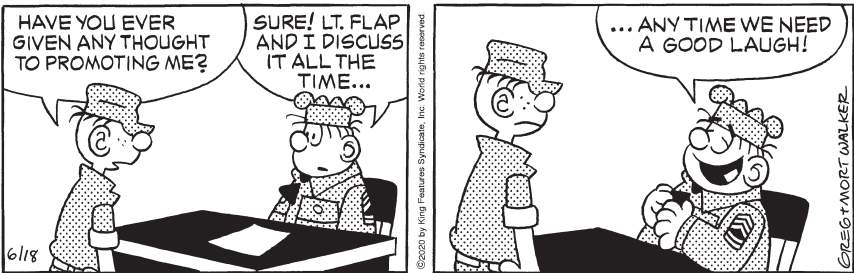
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

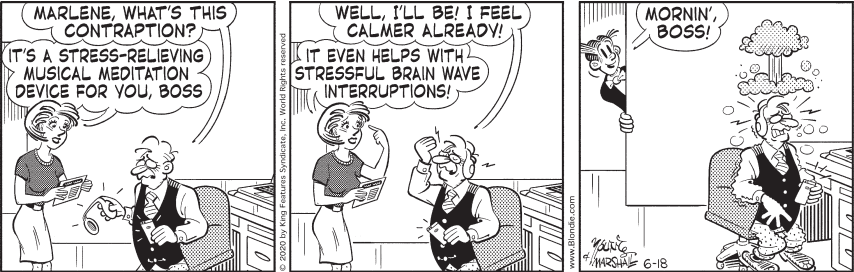


“If we’re only gettin’ Daddy one present, who gets to give it to him?”

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



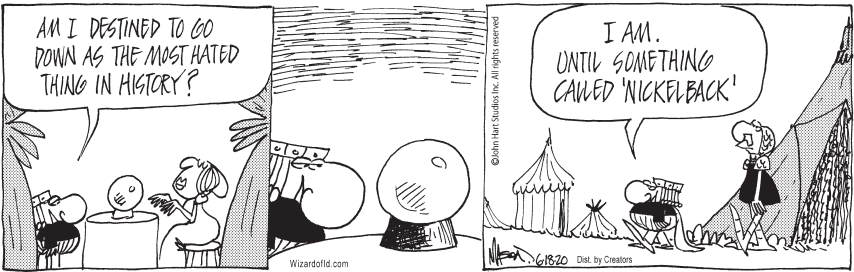
HI & LOIS



BC



WIZARD OF ID



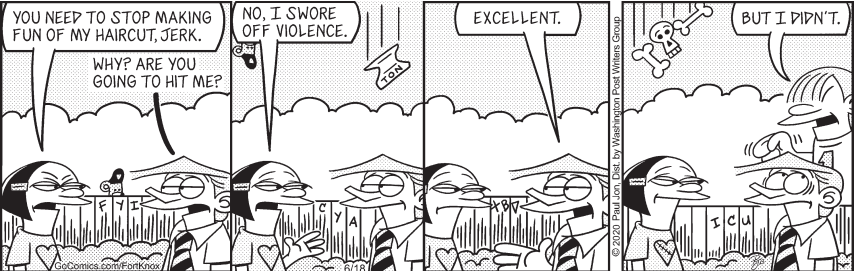
DILBERT



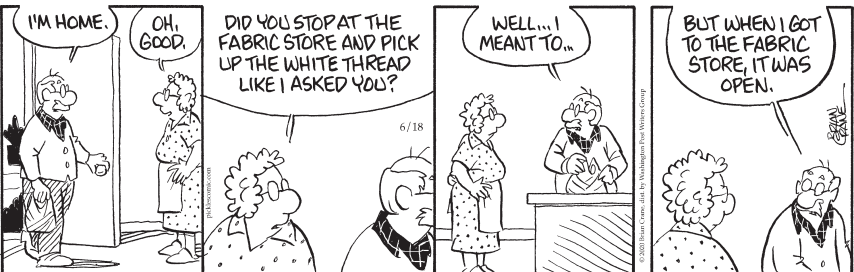
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



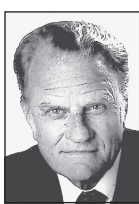
PICKLES



My Answer: Children are a gift from God

Q: My husband and I are newlyweds and both career-oriented. Many of our friends have discouraged us from having children because it causes problems with childcare. While we can afford to hire help to care for children we might have, I am not sure we are equipped. Is there a standard to consider? – P.C.

Billy Graham
My Answer



A: Parents are responsible not only for meeting the physical needs of their children – which even nature teaches – but also for spiritual growth. The Scriptures, which God intended for everyone to obey, says, “These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way,

when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 9).

While churches and schools can certainly reinforce these wonderful truths, the responsibility lies with the parents who gave life to their children and have the greatest love for them.

A teenager once complained, “The problem with parents is that by the time you get them, they’re too old to change!” This brings a smile but the truth is that moms

and dads don’t go into parenthood experienced, so they are bound to make some mistakes.

The important thing is to teach God’s Word and be a consistent example. Be humble before the Lord and ask for His wisdom. Pray that God may crown your home with grace, love and mercy and pray daily for your children by name. It blesses the Lord greatly when the influence of Christian parents builds godly character into their children. Children are a gift from God.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“IMKMF VUFFH OXUDE IDCXMFY. AMSL
UIM LMFYUI OE O EBCM, OIP OSVOHY
YEOFE VBEA EAM LMFYUI IMOFMYE
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Officer who shot Rayshard Brooks charged

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Prosecutors brought murder charges Wednesday against the white Atlanta police officer who shot Rayshard Brooks in the back, saying that the black man posed no threat when he was gunned down and that the officer kicked him and offered no medical treatment as he lay dying on the ground.

Brooks was holding a stun gun he had snatched from officers but was 18 feet, 3 inches away when he was shot by Garrett Rolfe and was running away at the time, District Attorney Paul Howard said in announcing the charges five days after the killing outside a Wendy’s restaurant rocked the city.

The felony murder charge against Rolfe carries life in prison without parole or the death penalty. He was also charged with 10 other offenses punishable by decades behind bars.

“Mr. Brooks never presented himself as a threat,” Howard said.

A second officer with

Rolfe, Devin Brosnan, stood on a wounded Brooks’ shoulder as he struggled for his life, according to Howard. Brosnan was charged with aggravated assault and other offenses but is cooperating with prosecutors and will testify, according to the district attorney, who said it was the first time in 40 such cases in which an officer has come forward to do this.

Rolfe was fired after shooting, while Brosnan was placed on leave.

The news came as Republicans on Capitol Hill unveiled a package of police reform measures and the movement to get rid of Confederate movements and other racially offensive symbols reached America’s breakfast table, with the maker of Aunt Jemima syrup and pancake mix dropping the 131-year-old brand.

The shooting sparked new demonstrations in Georgia’s capital against police brutality, after occasionally turbulent protests in response to George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis had largely simmered down. Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields

resigned less than 24 hours after Brooks died, and the fast-food restaurant was burned.

Police were called to the restaurant over complaints of a car blocking the drive-thru lane. An officer found Brooks asleep behind the wheel of the car, and a breath test showed he was intoxicated.

Police body camera video showed Brooks and officers having a relatively calm and respectful conversation for more than 40 minutes before things rapidly turned violent. Brooks wrestled with officers, snatched one of their stun guns and pointed it at one of them as he ran through the parking lot.

An autopsy found that Brooks was shot twice in the back.

Ahead of the district attorney’s scheduled announcement, Rolfe’s lawyers issued a statement saying the officer feared for his safety and that of others around him and was justified in shooting Brooks. Rolfe opened fire after hearing a sound “like a gunshot and saw a flash in front of him.”

“Mr. Brooks violently attacked two officers and disarmed one of them. When Mr. Brooks turned and pointed an object at Officer Rolfe, any officer would have reasonably believed that he intended to disarm, disable, or seriously injure him,” the lawyers said.

An attorney for the Brooks family said previously that Rolfe should be charged for “an unjustified use of deadly force, which equals murder.”

Wednesday’s decision in Atlanta comes as the country is experiencing a dramatic shift in its opinions on policing and race. A new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that more Americans today than five years ago believe police brutality is a very serious problem that too often goes undisciplined and unequally targets black Americans.

Elsewhere around the country, Senate Republicans in Washington announced the most ambitious GOP police-reform package in years, including an enhanced use-of-force database, restrictions on chokeholds and

new commissions to study law enforcement and race.

The 106-page bill is not as sweeping as a Democratic proposal set for a House vote next week, but it shows how swiftly the national debate has been transformed since Floyd’s death.

The Senate’s lone black Republican, Tim Scott of South Carolina, led a task force of GOP senators in compiling the package and spoke of his own experiences being stopped by police.

“We hear you,” he said to the families of Americans killed by police. “We’re listening to your concerns.”

Meanwhile, Quaker Oats said it is getting rid of its Aunt Jemima brand because the character was “based on a racial stereotype.” While Aunt Jemima’s image on packages was changed in recent years to make her look like a modern housewife, she was for most of her existence a stout, kerchief-wearing figure who evoked the plantation-era “Mammy” stereotype.

The owner of the Uncle Ben’s brand of rice likewise said it will “evolve” in re-

sponse to concerns about racial stereotyping.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas removed a statue of its “Hey Reb!” mascot outside its alumni center, and Houston officials took down a figure of a Confederate soldier in a downtown park.

Vandals spray-painted “White Lives Matter” on a statue of African American tennis legend Arthur Ashe in Richmond, Virginia.

New York’s governor signed an executive order recognizing Juneteenth as a paid holiday for state employees to commemorate the emancipation of slaves in the U.S. It has been a state holiday in Texas since 1980, and Virginia’s governor has also proposed making it a state holiday.

In the Minneapolis case, Derek Chauvin, the officer who put his knee on Floyd’s neck for several minutes as he pleaded he couldn’t breathe, has been charged with murder. Three other officers have been charged with aiding and abetting. All four were fired and could get up to 40 years in prison.

Officials to remove statue of slavery advocate

By MEG KINNARD and JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Despite a South Carolina law protecting monuments, officials in the historic city of Charleston announced Wednesday that they plan to remove a statue of slavery advocate John C. Calhoun from a downtown square.

Mayor John Tecklenburg announced he will send a resolution to the City Council to remove the statue at a news conference on the fifth anniversary of the slaying of eight black church members and their pastor in Dylann Roof’s racist attack at a downtown Charleston church. The move comes as monuments to Confederates and other historical figures who repressed or oppressed other people are being removed across the country.

“What a beautiful show of support from our City Council,” Tecklenburg said, adding that he was happy to see so many come together in the effort “not to erase our long and often tragic history but to begin to write a new and more equitable future.”

The mayor anticipated the statue will go to a local museum or educational institution.

The next meeting of the Charleston City Council is scheduled for Tuesday.

After the Roof massacre, officials came together to remove the Confederate flag from its site on

the Statehouse lawn. On Tuesday, the current pastor of Mother Emanuel stood with civil rights activists and politicians who called for the removal of the Calhoun statue, a 100-foot-tall (30-meter-tall) monument that presides over Francis Marion Square in the heart of the city.

Calhoun’s support of slavery never wavered. And in an 1836 speech before the U.S. Senate, he said slaves in the South were better off than free blacks in the North.

The Rev. Nelson Rivers said Calhoun “represents Dylann Roof to us” and said Charleston leaders should defy the unjust Heritage Act — which does not include penalties for breaking it — and remove the statue.

“The time has come to not just acknowledge your racist evil wicked past. The time has come to take down the monuments that honor the evil that was done in the name of Charleston, in the name of South Carolina,” Rivers said Tuesday at the foot of Calhoun’s statue.

The 2015 Confederate flag debate was the last time the General Assembly invoked a 2000 law called the Heritage Act, which protects all historical monuments and names of buildings.

Tecklenburg said the move isn’t covered under the Heritage Act, noting the Calhoun monument is not on public property or in commemoration of one of the histor-

ical events listed in the act. According to the National Parks Service, the city technically leases the land where the monument sits and “is to be kept open forever as a parade ground for the Sumter Guards and the Washington Light Infantry.”

“This council before you today has the full authority to order its relocation to a setting where it can be placed in full historical context,” Tecklenburg said. “And it will be preserved and protected in another place where the full story of history can be told.”

It remains to be seen if Tecklenburg’s interpretation will be disputed. A two-thirds vote from the state General Assembly is required to make any changes under the Heritage Act. That’s a tough task in a state where conservative Republicans dominate the House and Senate, made harder after Republican House Speaker Jay Lucas said, days after the Confederate flag came down in 2015, that he would never consider another change like it while he led the House.

Lucas has not only kept his word, he’s failed to respond to repeated interview requests and questions whether his stance has since changed.

Pressure is mounting, however. Clemson University trustees voted Friday to ask the General Assembly to let it change the name of Tillman Hall, a main build-

ing on campus named for “Pitchfork” Ben Tillman.

Tillman gained prominence supporting a white mob that killed four black men in 1876 after they surrendered to them. He later became South Carolina’s governor and a U.S. senator, committed to destroying any rights blacks obtained after the Civil War.

“We of the South have never recognized the right of the negro to govern white men, and we never will. We have never believed him to be equal to the white man, and we will not submit to his gratifying his lust on our wives and daughters without lynching him,” Tillman said in a 1900 congressional speech.

The president of the University of South Carolina wants lawmakers to let the school remove the name of J. Marion Sims from a women’s dorm. Sims is honored as the father of modern gynecology, but conducted experimental treatment on slaves without anesthesia.

Sims and Tillman also have statues on the Statehouse lawn. Some African American lawmakers want plaques added, explaining their racist views. Others, like Rep. Justin Bamberg, want them gone.

“I don’t like seeing ‘Pitchfork’ Ben Tillman every dang day I go to the Statehouse,” the Democrat said. “He boldly and proudly supported lynching my people.”

Missouri officer accused of striking man with SUV is charged

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

O’FALLON, Mo. — A white suburban St. Louis police detective who was captured on video apparently hitting a black suspect with a police SUV then kicking and punching the man was charged Wednesday with two counts of assault and armed criminal action.

Special Prosecutor Tim Lohmar announced the charges against Florissant Detective Joshua Smith, 31, who was fired June 10. The violent arrest June 2 came amid nationwide protests and unrest sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

“It’s situations like this that good cops hate because it makes everybody look bad,” Lohmar said at a news conference.

About one-third of Florissant’s 51,000 residents are black. The St. Louis suburb is just north of Ferguson, where Michael Brown’s death at the hands of a white police officer in 2014 was a catalyst for the Black Lives Matter movement. The St. Louis region has been the site of dozens of protests since Floyd’s May 25 death.

The arrest happened a day after four St. Louis police officers were shot and a retired St. Louis police captain was fatally shot during a violent night in the city. Florissant Police Chief Timothy Fagan has said Smith was on duty because of civil unrest in the area.

Officers were pursuing a vehicle occupied by three men because it had been seen near an earlier shots-fired incident, Florissant Mayor Tim Lowery said. The pursuit ended on a residential street in nearby Dellwood.

What happened next was captured by a resident’s doorbell camera and posted online by media outlet Real STL News soon thereafter.

Attorneys for the 20-year-old man who was struck released a second video Tuesday, from another home’s security camera, closer and with a different angle. It shows a car slowing on a residential street. Two men in the front seat jump out of the still rolling car, before a third man jumps out of the back seat.

The unmarked police SUV appears from behind the car and drives across part of the front lawn, striking the third man and knocking him onto the driveway as he loudly cries out in pain. An officer gets out of the SUV and appears to kick and hit the man on the ground as the man yells out, “OK! OK! OK!” and repeatedly says, “I don’t have nothing.”

“When you see the second video it’s clear that he intentionally ran into him and used the vehicle as a

weapon,” the man’s attorney, Jerryl T. Christmas, said. “It’s difficult to watch, and difficult to listen to the audio because of the way he’s screaming and hollering.”

One of the assault charges against Smith is a felony, the other a misdemeanor. The armed criminal action charge, a felony, was filed because the officer used the vehicle as a weapon, Lohmar said, calling it a “4,000-pound missile.”

The range of punishment for both felonies is 10 to 30 years in prison, Lohmar said. Anyone convicted of armed criminal action must serve a minimum of three years in prison.

Smith’s attorney, Scott Rosenblum, has said what happened was an accident. He did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Wednesday.

Smith’s police report said the man darted in front of him and he tried to swerve to miss him, Lohmar said.

“The video evidence just proves that is patently false,” Lohmar said.

Fagan said the man was treated at the hospital for an ankle injury, but Christmas said his injuries were far worse. He said the man’s leg was “shattered” and required multiple surgeries.

“He was traumatized,” Christmas said.

Fagan said police are seeking municipal charges against all three men for possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest. No weapons were found on the men or in their car.

In addition to Lohmar’s investigation of the officer, U.S. Attorney Jeff Jensen said his office, the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice and the FBI also are reviewing the case to determine if a federal response is warranted.

The arrest led to several peaceful protests outside police headquarters in Florissant, including a “die-in” in which participants lay face down with their hands behind their backs. A few dozen protesters also gathered Monday outside Lohmar’s office urging prosecution of Smith.

Fagan called it “a sad day for the Florissant Police Department but an important day for the community.”

It’s not the first time Smith has been accused of using a vehicle to make an arrest.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Brent J. Johns filed three federal lawsuits starting in 2017 that claimed Smith used his patrol car to ram Johns’ vehicle, even though Johns’ hands were up and out the window. Johns said another officer beat, stomped and used a stun gun on him.

The lawsuits were consolidated and later dismissed by a judge.

Black Lives Matter network establishes \$12M fund

By AARON MORRISON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — An influential group behind the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement has established a fund worth more than \$12 million to aid organizations fighting institutional racism in the wake of the George Floyd protests.

On Wednesday, the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation said it was setting aside \$6 million from money it received in donations to support black-led grassroots organizing groups. Last week, the foundation unveiled a separate \$6.5 million fund for its network of affiliate chapters.

Beginning July 1, affiliated chapters can apply for unrestricted funding of up to \$500,000 in multi-year grants, the foundation announced. Grants from both funds will be administered through a fiscal sponsor, said Kailee Scales, managing director of the foundation.

“In this watershed moment for black power building ... it is critical that we democratize giving to ensure all of us have access to the resources we need to reverse centuries of disinvestment

in black communities, and invest in a future where we can all be connected, represented and free,” Scales said in a statement to The Associated Press.

According to the network’s website, the organization has more than a dozen active chapters, including Boston, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Detroit, as well as in Canada. Its newest chapter is in South Bend, Indiana.

The foundation told the AP it has received more than 1.1 million individual donations at an average of \$33 per gift since the death of Floyd, a black man who died May 25 pleading for air as a white Minneapolis police officer held a knee to his neck for what prosecutors said was nearly nine minutes. The surge of financial support adds to roughly \$3.4 million in net assets the BLM global network had on hand last year, according to a 2019 financial statement of Thousand Currents, the fiscal sponsor which receives donations on the network’s behalf and then releases money to the group.

Creation of the funds signals a growth in infrastructure for the network, which had been at odds with some local chapter organizers, who felt network leaders

weren’t providing enough financial support for initiatives such as rapid response to police brutality. Although there are many groups that use “Black Lives Matter” or “BLM” in their names, only 16 are considered affiliates of the global network.

For Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, the network’s first official chapter, the fund will increase its capacity to support families in need of legal aid, public communications strategy and other services after a loved one is killed by police, said organizer Melina Abdullah, who is a professor in the Pan-African Studies department at California State University, Los Angeles.

“We’ve been struggling for seven years now with very limited resources,” Abdullah told the AP. “We’re not paid. But we also have real costs, even if we’re not taking salaries.”

Renewed energy in the BLM movement has created a need for more resources, she added. “This fund will allow us to move forward in really strong ways.”

Racial justice groups across the U.S. have reported receiving tens of millions of dollars in donations, particularly for community bail funds posting bond for pro-

testers arrested in demonstrations. The wealth is being spread across younger grassroots organizations and legacy institutions, such as the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and the National Urban League.

The Black Lives Matter movement emerged in 2013 amid anger over the acquittal of George Zimmerman, the Florida man who shot and killed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012. The network of chapters was formed in 2014, following what organizers called Ferguson October, a national mobilization in response to the police shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

“I’m really proud of the work we’ve been able to do in the last seven years,” Patrisse Cullors, co-founder and chairwoman of the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, said in a statement. “What is clear is that Black Lives Matter shares a name with a much larger movement and there are literally hundreds of organizations that do impactful racial and gender justice work who make up the fabric of this broader movement.”

Food



Provided photo

Transform broccoli by flavoring it with scallions, toasted sesame oil and hazelnuts.

Broccoli with scallion dressing and hazelnuts

By THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Transform broccoli by flavoring it with scallions, toasted sesame oil and hazelnuts. Cancer fighting broccoli contains glucosinolates, vitamin C and dietary fiber that can help reduce cancer risk. Serve this dish with brown rice or quinoa to add a healthy fiber boost, and add salmon for a delicious dinner.

- Ingredients**
- 3 cups small broccoli florets (fresh or frozen)
 - 2 tsp. toasted sesame oil
 - 2 scallions, trimmed and thinly sliced

- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. reduced sodium soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp. coarsely chopped toasted hazelnuts

Makes 4 servings. Per serving: 60 calories, 4.5 g total fat (.5 g saturated fat, 0 g trans fat), 0 mg cholesterol, 4 g carbohydrates, 3 g protein, 2 g dietary fiber, 110 mg sodium, 1 g sugar, 0 g added sugar.

Directions

Bring large pot of water to boil. Using steamer basket or heat-safe colander, add broccoli and close lid or cover and steam to cook for 4-5 minutes.

In medium bowl, combine

sesame oil, scallions, garlic and soy sauce. Add cooked broccoli, toss well and top with hazelnuts.

Notes

- To toast hazelnuts, put them in a small skillet over medium-high heat and stir frequently for 3-4 minutes, until lightly browned. Immediately transfer nuts to a small dish and cool.
- You can use pecans in place of hazelnuts.

This recipe is reprinted from The New American Plate Cookbook, which features 200 mouth-watering recipes and color photos. It is available from bookstores and online booksellers. Proceeds from sales fund cancer research.



Provided photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

Balsamic syrup is easy to make. It's a simple reduction of balsamic vinegar with a little sugar, spiked with lemon juice and black pepper for extra zing.

Think outside the strawberry box

By LYNDA BALSLEV

To be perfectly clear: Having too many strawberries to eat is hardly a problem. But during this season of berry abundance, inventive ways to incorporate the sweet, sun-kissed strawberry into our meals is always welcome. And I'm not just talking smoothies and desserts. Strawberries are delicious in savory preparations, too, where their sweetness and gentle acidity contribute to light dishes such as salads, sauces, toasts and cheese plates.

This bruschetta recipe showcases the best of the strawberry, piled on toasted bread with a few of its favorite savory ingredients. A creamy, lemon-flecked ricotta cheese anchors peppery arugula to the bread, while a tangy, inky balsamic syrup dresses the berries.

Balsamic syrup is easy to make. It's a simple reduction of balsamic vinegar with a little sugar, spiked with lemon juice and black pepper for extra zing. When making the syrup, save your pricey balsamic vinegar for

another use. A modestly priced supermarket version will do the trick. However, don't skimp on the ricotta in this bruschetta recipe. Choose a high-quality, fresh ricotta for best results. It should be creamy, sweet and slightly tangy – not grainy or soupy. A mild, fresh goat cheese is an equally delicious alternative to the ricotta.

Strawberry Ricotta Bruschetta
Active Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 20 minutes, plus cooling time
Yield: Makes 2

- Balsamic syrup:**
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
 - 1 tablespoon packed light brown sugar
 - 1 teaspoon lemon juice
 - Pinch of freshly ground black pepper
 - 2 slices levain or country-style bread, about 1/2-inch thick
 - Extra-virgin olive oil
 - 1/4 cup fresh ricotta or soft, fresh goat cheese, room temperature
 - Finely grated lemon zest
 - Sea salt

1 cup arugula leaves, washed and dried

4 to 6 strawberries, hulled, thickly sliced

Freshly ground black pepper

Combine the syrup ingredients in small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a simmer, reduce the heat to medium-low, and continue to simmer until the mixture is reduced by half and syrupy in consistency, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from the heat and cool to room temperature.

Preheat the oven broiler. Lightly brush the bread slices with olive oil. Broil in the oven until golden brown, turning once.

Smear the ricotta or goat cheese over the bread slices. Lightly sprinkle each bruschetta with lemon zest and a pinch of sea salt. Spread the arugula over the bruschetta and arrange the strawberries over the arugula. Lightly brush the berries with the balsamic syrup and drizzle additional syrup over and around the bruschetta. Garnish with additional lemon zest and black pepper. Serve immediately.

Aunt Jemima brand retired by Quaker due to racial stereotype

By MATT OTT Associated Press

NEW YORK — Quaker Oats is retiring the 131-year-old Aunt Jemima brand, saying the company recognizes the character's origins are "based on a racial stereotype."

Just hours later, the owner of the Uncle Ben's brand of rice says the brand will "evolve" in response to concerns about racial stereotyping.

Quaker, which is owned by PepsiCo, said it's overhauled pancake mix and syrup will hit shelves by the fourth quarter of 2020. The company will announce the new name at a later date.

"We recognize Aunt Jemima's origins are based on a racial stereotype," said Kristin Kroepfl of Quaker Foods North America. "While work has been done over the years to update the brand in a manner intended to be appropriate and respectful, we realize those changes are not enough."

The Aunt Jemima image

has evolved over the years to meet socially acceptable standards of the times, but the brand could not shake its history of racial stereotypes and connections to slavery. By 1989, Aunt Jemima had lost weight, abandoned her kerchief and looked more like a typical modern housewife. But the image and brand tweaks over the years were apparently not enough.

"The reputation of that brand, now more than 130 years old, was built on a racial and cultural stereotype that is widely regarded as offensive," said James O'Rourke, professor of management at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. "Brand managers have been aware of that for years and have tried, largely through incremental updates to the character's image on the packaging, to modernize how she is seen. The headscarf is gone, they've added a lace collar, pearl earrings. But the effect, because of the name, is the same."

PepsiCo also announced a

five-year, \$400 million initiative "to lift up black communities and increase black representation at PepsiCo."

Caroline Sherman, a spokeswoman for Mars, which owns Uncle Ben's, says the company is listening to the voices of consumers, especially in the black community, and recognizes that now is the right time to evolve the brand, including its visual identity.

In the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, activists and consumers have demanded that companies take a stand against racial injustice or lose their business. The singer Kirby posted a TikTok video called "How to Make a Non Racist Breakfast" explaining some of the backstory of the Aunt Jemima brand. That video went viral.

Land O'Lakes announced earlier this year that it would no longer use the Native American woman who had graced its packages of butter, cheese and other products since the late 1920s.

Eiffel Tower to reopen after longest closure since WWII

By THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS — Workers are preparing the Eiffel Tower for reopening next week, after the coronavirus pandemic led to the iconic Paris landmark's longest closure since World War II.

France's tourism industry is opening back up, but the 324-meter (1,063-feet) tall wrought-iron tower won't immediately welcome visitors the way it did before the country went into lockdown in March.

Only limited numbers of people will be allowed in when the Eiffel Tower opens again on June 25. Elevators to the top will be out of service, at least at first, and only the first and second floors will be accessible to the public.

"At first, only visits by the stairs will be available,"

Victoria Klahr, the spokeswoman for the tower's management, said Tuesday.

Everyone over 11 years old will be required to wear face masks, and crowd control measures will be in place.

"We are optimistic that visitor numbers will pick up, even if it will likely be local tourists who visit the monument in the first weeks," Klahr said.

The tower's director told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he hopes access will be back to normal by August.

A stringent cleaning operation is in place and will continue daily from next week.

"There is a new protocol," said Eiffel Tower hygiene consultant Alain Miralles. "The day cleaning teams will be able to clean all the points of contact every two

hours, from the opening of the site to its closing."

Tourists planning trips to the City of Light are advised to book tickets to visit the Eiffel Tower online once the ticket office reopens Thursday.

Paris tourism officials have expressed muted optimism about the city's re-emergence as a travel destination. Since confinement measures were imposed in March, tourism levels have dropped by around 80 percent compared to the same month in previous years, they say.

"To visit Paris now is quite exceptional, as we of course don't have many visitors and we don't expect this summer to be at the same level as previous ones," Corinne Menegaux, the director of Paris's businesses and tourism office, told The AP.

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